

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 CU-04 AID-20 PC-04 OMB-01 NIC-01

OPR-02 DRC-01 /158 W

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P R 030801Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1367

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: STUDENT SITUATION

REF SEOUL 8051

1. FAILURE THUS FAR OF SCHOOL CLOSINGS TO CHECK
CONTINUING STUDENT PROTEST ACTIVITIES WAS NOTABLE
ASPECT OF DEVELOPMENTS DEC 3 AND ON WEEKEND.

2. EHWA UNIVERSITY FACULTY MEETING NOV 30 DECIDED
TO CANCEL EXAMS AND CLOSE FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING DEC 3.
HOWEVER, GIRLS HAD RESOLVED AT ALL-NIGHT MEETING
NOV 28 TO RESUME DEMONSTRATIONS DEC 3 IF DEMANDS
NOT MET. MORNING OF DEC 3, ABOUT 1,000 GIRLS
ASSEMBLED OUTSIDE LOCKED FRONT GATE AND REAFFIRMED
DEMANDS, ADDING DEMAND FOR COMPLETION OF SCHOOL TERM.
GIRLS DISPERSED BY NOON, BUT ABOUT 500 OF THEM LATER
GATHERED OUTSIDE CITY HALL, SHOUTED SLOGANS AND SANG PATRIOTIC
SONGS UNTIL DISPERSED BY POLICE.

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3. AT SNU LAW COLLEGE, ABOUT 60 STUDENTS MET IN THE

SCHOOL LIBRARY AND UNDERTOOK A "RELAY HUNGER STRIKE" DECLARING THEY WOULD PERSEVERE UNTIL CLASSES RESUME IN THE SPRING. THEIR DEMANDS INCLUDED "A NEW CONSTITUTION BASED ON DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES". STRIKE BEGAN ON CAMPUS DEC 1 BUT SNU LAW PROFESSOR STATES CAMPUS GATES WERE CLOSED FROM DEC 3 TO BAR ENTRY. PRESS LATER REPORTED STUDENTS WENT HOME.

4. OUTSIDE SEOUL, ABOUT 1,000 STUDENTS OF KYONGBUK UNIVERSITY IN TAEGU DEC 1 MET ON CAMPUS AND THEN CONFRONTED RIOT POLICE IN EXCHANGE OF STONES AND TEAR GAS OUTSIDE SCHOOL GATE. SEVENTEEN STUDENTS WERE PICKED UP. STUDENTS RETURNED TO CAMPUS AND HELD SIT-DOWN DEMONSTRATION WHICH LASTED UNTIL DISTRICT POLICE CHIEF PROMISED TO RELEASE THE SEVENTEEN. THE SAME DAY, ABOUT 700 STUDENTS OF PUSAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLED OUTSIDE A DOWNTOWN MOVIE THEATER AND ADOPTED A SERIES OF RESOLUTIONS BEFORE THEY WERE DISPERSED BY RIOT POLICE. ON NOVEMBER 30, ABOUT 500 STUDENTS AT YONGNAM UNIVERSITY IN TAEGU FORCED THEIR WAY ON TO CLOSED CAMPUS AND DEMANDED RESUMPTION OF NORMAL SCHOOL SCHEDULE AND RELEASE OF ARRESTED STUDENTS.

5. OTHER WEEKEND PROTEST ACTIVITY INCLUDED ON-CAMPUS MEETINGS DEC 1 AT HONGIK (700), CHUNGANG (150), AND KYONGHUI (200) UNIVERSITIES AND AT SANGMYONG WOMEN'S TEACHERS COLLEGE (300).

6. IN OTHER STUDENT PROTEST ACTIVITY DEC 3, 150 GIRLS OF SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (SNU) NURSING SCHOOL MET ON CAMPUS AND LAUNCHED A 48 HOUR HUNGER STRIKE DEMANDING RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY, RELEASE OF ARRESTED STUDENTS, AND CAMPUS AUTONOMY. ON-CAMPUS MEETINGS WERE HELD AT MYONGJI UNIVERSITY (800) AND HANKUK AVIATION COLLEGE (400).

7. COMMENT: AS EXPECTED, STUDENT PROTEST IS CONTINUING, NUMBERS ARE NOT LARGE AND GENERAL VIEW IS THAT DEMONSTRATIONS WILL CONTINUE FOR PRESENT BUT NOT AT LEVELS CHALLENGING POLICE ABILITY TO CONTROL. RATHER, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPECULATION REMAINS THAT SPRING WILL BE THE PERIOD OF MAJOR STUDENT/GOVERNMENT CONFRONTATION. HOWEVER, AS STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE CONTINUED, PUBLIC INTEREST AND PASSIVE SUPPORT FOR THEM HAS CONCOMITANTLY INCREASED.
UNDERHILL

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